## 2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 912

March 5, 2008 - Introduced by Representatives Nygren, Kramer and Vukmir. Referred to Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform.

AN ACT *to create* 49.471 (11r) of the statutes; **relating to:** providing coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants under BadgerCare Plus and granting rule-making authority.

## Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

BadgerCare Plus (BC+) is a Medical Assistance (MA) program that was approved in the biennial budget act. BC+, which will be administered by the Department of Health and Family Services, provides health care benefits under two different plans, depending on the basis for a recipient's eligibility, to recipients who satisfy financial and nonfinancial eligibility criteria. One plan provides the same benefits that are provided under the regular MA program. The other plan, called the Benchmark Plan, provides comprehensive benefits that are specified in the statute.

This bill provides that, beginning on January 1, 2009, BC+ will cover hearing aids and cochlear implants for any child under the age of 18 years who is a state resident, who has been certified as deaf or hearing impaired by a physician or a licensed audiologist, and who: is not eligible for the BC+ plan providing the same benefits as under the regular MA program. Those benefits include coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

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1 Secti	on <b>1.</b> 49.471	(11r) of the stat	tutes is created	d to read:
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- 49.471 (11r) COVERAGE OF HEARING AIDS AND COCHLEAR IMPLANTS. (a) Beginning on January 1, 2009, BadgerCare Plus shall provide coverage under this subsection of the cost of hearing aids or cochlear implants for any individual who satisfies all of the following criteria:
  - 1. The individual is a resident of this state.
- 7 2. The individual has been certified as deaf or hearing impaired by a physician or by an audiologist licensed under subch. II of ch. 459.
  - 3. The individual is under the age of 18 years.
  - 4. The individual is not eligible under BadgerCare Plus for the benefits described in s. 49.46 (2) (a) and (b).
  - (b) The department may promulgate rules for the administration of this subsection, including rules related to cost-sharing requirements.

14 (END)